

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

The coefficients of the DCT block have been sequentially scanned in accordance with a zigzag pattern (301 in Fig. 3A) and variable-length encoded. The variable-length encoding scheme is a combination of Huffman coding and run-length coding. More particularly, each run of zero AC coefficients and a subsequent non-zero AC coefficient constitutes a run-level pair which is encoded into a single variable-length code word. Fig. 3B shows the run-level pairs of the DCT block 300. An End-Of-Block code (EOB) denotes the absence of further non-zero coefficients in the DCT block. Fig. 3C shows the series of variable-length code words representing DCT block 300 as received by the arrangement.